United Nations A/58/878–S/2004/681

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2004
English
Original: Spanish

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 117 and 156

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 25 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith an official note from the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, issued on 22 August.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 117 and 156, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodney **López Clemente**
Ambassador
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Annex to the identical letters dated 25 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Official note from the Revolutionary Government of Cuba

22 August 2004

On 14 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed international public opinion of rumours circulating in the Miami terrorist mafia that the President of Panama, Mireya Moscoso, would pardon terrorists being held in Panama, and that this decision would be taken between 15 and 30 August.

Reports of an imminent pardon of the four anti-Cuban terrorists have lately intensified in Panama and Miami.

Counter-revolutionary circles in Miami are predicting with certainty that Mireya Moscoso will fulfil her promise to pardon the terrorists in the coming days, before she leaves office.

Friends in Panama have confirmed these rumours and assure us that the Panamanian President has already taken the decision to pardon the terrorists of Cuban origin, Luis Posada Carriles, Gaspar Jiménez Escobedo, Pedro Remón and Guillermo Novo Sampol, who were detained, tried and sentenced in the Republic of Panama for the attempted assassination of comrade Fidel on the occasion of the Ibero-American Summit held in that country. Hundreds of sons and daughters of our sister nation would have also been massacred in that attempt.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba condemns this latest affront to the Cuban people and reiterates that, if the terrorists being held in Panama are pardoned, President Mireya Moscoso and her Government will have to bear the full responsibility for, and consequences of, this shameful decision in the eyes of posterity.

The Cuban people, who have been subjected to the most vicious form of terrorism for more than four decades, and the families of the more than 3,000 who perished and the thousands who were injured at the hands of terrorists will never be able to comprehend this despicable act of betrayal by Ms. Moscoso.

The Panamanian President will have to bear the stigma and be associated with the immorality of having released confessed killers, terrorists of the worst sort. She will go down in history as the benefactress of terrorism and of these notorious criminals of Cuban origin.

The reprehensible act about to take place is not only a political but also a legal aberration. It is worth noting that, in accordance with Panamanian legislation, the President of the Republic has the power to issue a pardon only once the judicial process has been completed and a firm sentence has been handed down. The trial of the terrorists in question, however, is still being appealed. Hence, the granting of a pardon in this case would be contrary to Panama's own laws.

It is extremely telling that the pretext advanced from the outset by the defence attorneys for these terrorists, namely, that they are elderly and in poor health, is

precisely how the President is trying to justify her "humanitarian gesture". This should suffice to confirm the source of the pressure and the political blackmail behind this entire case.

There could be no better reflection of the ethical and moral rottenness of this decision than the deceitfulness and falseness with which the pardon was arranged.

The counter-revolutionary Miami mafia and the ringleaders of the terrorists gangs operating out of Miami have insistently called for the release of the terrorists by President Moscoso. We have learned that the Panamanian President's sister, Ms. Ruby Moscoso, is in constant contact with the Miami counter-revolution and was a key player in the efforts to release them.

It is widely known that, during his visit to Panama on the occasion of the Republic's centennial, the Secretary of State of the United States of America met with President Mireya Moscoso and sought the release of the four terrorists at the conclusion of their trial.

In the current context of the United States electoral climate, the Bush administration is painstakingly attempting to garner votes and financial support from the most recalcitrant sectors of Florida's Cuban population. This United States administration has amply demonstrated that neither ethical nor moral considerations, nor principles of international law, will deter it from achieving its political ends.

Unfortunately, the Panamanian President, in glaring ignorance of the worthy struggle that many Governments and peoples are waging against terrorism, is turning her back on justice, on the victims of these terrorist crimes, on the Cuban people, on the people of Panama and on all those who are genuinely combating this worldwide scourge.

We wish to express our eternal gratitude to the people of Panama for the solidarity and support they have shown us all these years. The Cuban people and Government will always be able to distinguish between the actions of the heroic Panamanian people and the perfidy of its leaders.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba, on behalf of the family members of the victims of the terrorist acts by these murderers, and on behalf of all the Cuban people, appeals to international public opinion and to the Governments of the world to condemn and impede this irrational decision by Ms. Mireya Moscoso.

Lastly, we are issuing an extremely serious warning that, if she does not reconsider her decision and these monstrous criminals are pardoned, diplomatic relations between the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Panama will be automatically severed the moment it is made public.

Havana, 22 August 2004